Patent Claims

1. A method for operating an automatic dishwasher (1) with an endless conveyor belt (10) which continuously conveys material to be cleaned and which is driven by a drive mechanism (24) controllable from a machine control unit, and the automatic dishwasher (1) can be operated in several operating modes (71, 72, 73, 74), said method comprising the following steps:

a) on switching from a first operating mode (71) "Cleaning of dishes for milk products" to a second operating mode (72) "Cleaning of dishes for meat or meat products" and vice versa, execution of a third operating mode "Kosher operation" (73) is enforced,

b) during the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation", the interior of the automatic dishwasher (1) is cleaned with a cleaning fluid whose temperature lies above the rinse water temperature or fresh water temperature occurring in the normal operation of the automatic dishwasher (1),

c) during the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation", the endless conveyor belt (10) is cleaned continuously by a cleaning device (43),

d) during the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation", the automatic dishwasher (1) is provided with a curtain (43) to be used exclusively in the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation", and

e) during a fourth operating mode (74) called "Sabbath operation", a cut-off function of the

drive mechanism (24, 59) of the endless conveyor belt (10) is executed upon overloading and upon interruption via light barriers (52).

5   2.   The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation", the cleaning fluid for cleaning the areas of the automatic dishwasher contaminated in the first operating mode (71) or in the second

10   operating mode (72) has a temperature of between 90°C and 95°C.

3.   The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, during the third operating mode (73) "Kosher

15   operation", the endless conveyor belt (10) is cleaned continuously on the upper face and lower face by a cleaning system (43).

4.   The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in

20   that, in the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation", the cleaning system (43) is provided with a set of cleaning brushes corresponding to the preceding operating mode (71) or (72).

25   5.   The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in the first operating mode (71) "Cleaning of dishes for milk products", only the first curtains (40) are suspended in the automatic dishwasher (1).

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6.   The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in the second operating mode (72) "Cleaning of dishes for meat products", only the second curtains (41) are suspended in the automatic

35   dishwasher (1).

7.   The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, on switching from the first operating mode (71) "Cleaning of dishes for milk products" to the

second operating mode (72) "Cleaning of dishes for meat products" and vice versa, the third operating mode (73) "Kosher operation" is always executed.

5   8. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, using a fourth switch (74) provided on the control panel (70), the automatic dishwasher (1) can be converted to an operating mode called "Sabbath operation" in which, if malfunctions
10   occur, the drive mechanism (24, 59) of the endless conveyor belt (10) and of the circulating pumps (29) and of the fresh water supply line is automatically switched off.

15   9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that, in the fourth operating mode (74) of the automatic dishwasher (1), a blocking of the advance movement (11) of the endless conveyor belt (10) is detected by a limit switch (50) configured
20   as a light barrier (52).

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the detection of the blocked endless conveyor belt (10) is effected via a light barrier (52)
25   which executes a current interruption function using a mirror which can be deflected via a lever system (56) actuated upon blocking of the advance movement (11) of the endless conveyor belt (10).